

Serial No.: 10/672,108

## REMARKS

### I. Status Summary

Claims 1-56 were filed with the subject application and have been examined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Patent Office"). Of these, claims 1-31 were cancelled in a preliminary amendment and claims 42-56 were cancelled as being drawn to unelected subject matter. Claim 57 was added with Amendment A, filed March 20, 2006. Claims 32-41 and 57 presently stand rejected.

The Patent Office has withdrawn claim 57 from consideration as allegedly being patentably distinct from SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6, the subject of currently pending claims 32-41.

The Patent Office has objected to Amendment A filed March 20, 2006 as allegedly introducing new matter into the disclosure. Particularly, the Examiner contends that SEQ ID NO: 30 recited in claim 57 is not supported by the specification as filed.

Claims 32 and 39-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,977,247 to Fahnestock et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Fahnestock et al.").

Claims 33-38 have been objected to as improperly depending from rejected claim 32.

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

### II. Response to the Patent Office Withdrawal of Claim 57

The Patent Office has withdrawn claim 57 from consideration as allegedly being patentably distinct from SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6, the subject of currently pending claims 32-41. Particularly, the Patent Office asserts that the sequences contained in claim 57 are unrelated and patentably distinct such that an unduly burdensome search would